

INTERVIEW WITH CARL HUBER, 22 JANUARY 1986. One Side.

Allen: Carl, when did you enter the Jr. College?

Carl: 1936

Allen: 1936

Carl: I came out of the Peekskill Military Academy.

Allen: Why did you go to the Jr. College?

Carl: Well, it was local and I didn't feel I wanted to be away from home.

Allen: What program did you study there.

Carl: Business Administration, Marketing.

Allen: And you were quite active as a student, I understand.

Carl: Oh, yes . I was one of the few students, fortunately, who had a car. We lived up in Long Hill so I used to bring down a couple of students who lived up that way every morning down to school.

Allen: I have run across your name a number of times in the Scribe and other places. I understand you were active in the international Relations Club and you went to a conference up in New London.

Carl: Yes, that's right, we were up in New London, Lenny Carlson and I forget who the other fellow was. We went up there , I was, of course, we have a summer home up there in New London so I know the area, it was an interesting experience.

Allen: Who was the faculty member that arranged this, was it Em Chamberlain?

Carl: I can't remember now if it was he or not.

Allen: In the year book of 1938 you were voted as having done the most for the school. What brought that on, what did you do?

Carl: Well, I was chairman of the social activities committee and as I said before, having a car , we used to go up to Landy's for lunch at noon time and before long, people were saying, "Carl bring me back a tuna fish , bring me back a ham and cheese on rye, or egg salad, cokes and things like that, so that it got to be a problem after a while so Everett Cortright wanted me to be

chairman of the social activities committee at that time so I said, Well, why not have something at the school and Mr. Pawson was the custodian at the school at the time and he talked to his wife and she said, well she would make the sandwiches up if we would pay for ingredients. So every morning we would put up a note on the bulletin board in the front hall what sandwiches we were going to have that day and at 10:30 in the morning she would come over and pick it up to make up the sandwiches and bring them over to the school and we'd sell the sandwiches and I would sell some coke, chocolate milk, white milk and it go so we had candy in and made some money.

Allen: Good.

Carl: After a while why they needed the money for the school for the auditorium. The auditorium was a big room on the west side of the college that had no shades, had no curtains and it was our assembly room. Had hard folding chairs so money was made why we used it to take care of the assembly room. In fact, here's a letter from E. Everett Cortright that I think will give you an insight of what

Allen: O.K., I'm going to read this, if I may. This is dated Jan. 11, 1938 to Mr. Carl Huber, chairman of social room committee. My dear Mr. Huber: I do not know whether the social room committee is at all interested in redecorating the walls of the social room by new paper and having the wood work painted. The bid that lies on my desk for this purpose as well as for the redecorating of corridors and other rooms came to us unsolicited from a responsible contractor who is very seriously in the need of work. If your committee holds a meeting during the present month, I would be glad if you would take the matter up with them and let me know if they are interested. In order to reduce it to something of a practical basis, I am saying if the committee is interested and can furnish funds to the amount of \$25.00, the college will pay the difference and proceed to have the rooms redecorated during the last week of January while the students are enjoying, question mark, their annual January examinations. Cordially yours, E. Everett Cortright, president. That's wonderful.

Carl: And we had enough money so that that year there was no platform in the room, so we had a platform built, it was put off the floor and we had no stand to hold the flags so we bought two stands and George Puglisi at that time, his father said he would build us a speaker's rostrum which he did and we bought that and bought four leather chairs. We had enough money to put arms on them. Just four leather chairs but that was the extent of our

ALLEN: Now this was the social room committee?

Carl: The social room committee.

Allen: I can understand why you got the award as having done the most for the school. Also, you were president of the Men's Club. I've heard a lot about the Men's Club. Tell me about that.

Carl: Well, the Men's Club sort of got started because the locker room was very small and down in the basement underneath the library was a big room so we decided to furnish that and have that for a room where you could go down and be quiet and talk and smoke for those who wanted to. It lasted about six or eight months and then after that it fell apart. It had no furnishings.

Allen: The Men's Club seem to come and go

Carl: Come and go, yes.

Allen: And that's primarily because of the people involved?

Carl: I think so, we didn't have any furnishing down there too well, some old stuffed chairs and a few things like that and it was down in the basement and it was away from circulations so that is why it fell apart.

Allen: The student government organization, were you active in that?

Carl: A little bit, not too much.

Allen: What was that like?

Carl: Well, it was a group of students who got together and decided what was good for the school and was good for the students and how we could better ourselves, after all, it was a new school, just getting started. For instance, we wanted to play football outside, it was too close to the school so we had to move that away, touch football and things of that nature.

Allen: Incidentally, when I first came here they were playing touch football outside. I played a little bit of it myself.

Carl: When did you first come?

Allen: First of Feb. '47. That's 39 years ago.

Carl: Well, I went back to the university one time.

Allen\; Oh, you did.

Carl: I went back and finished, graduated in '50

Allen: Oh, you graduated in '50. Well, you weren't in any of my classes.

HUBER: I was in Bigsbee's, Charlie Petitjean's, and it was the evening school.

Allen: Oh, I see. I did teach some classes in the evening school but were you in any of the classes over in Bassick High school at that time?

Carl: No, it was all down at Seaside. We had the Wisteria Festival. Wisteria got started in, I think it was '38. We had a big arbor out in back of the school and I had to get dressed up in a top hat, cane and in the social activities room we used to hold dances. We'd have a dance for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's dance. We'd pay fifty cents a couple and we got a fellow to bring in a nickelodeon. He'd bring it in at 8 o'clock and be back to pick it up at 12 o'clock for \$5.00. And we would have all the records that we needed at the time and that's another way we made some money.

Allen: Were these dances well attended?

Carl: Oh, yes. We had a lot of fun at these dances. We'd have cider and doughnuts, coffee and doughnuts and things like that. We had a grand time.

Allen: It always interested me because I remember things of this sort and what it takes to amuse today's youngsters. We were easily amused.

Carl: We had our annual picnic up in Putnum Park in the summer-time at the end of the season.

Allen: About how many students were there at that time, do you recall?

Carl: About 150 to 200, I don't exactly remember.

Allen: You got to know everyone very well.

Carl: You knew everyone in the school, there wasn't anybody you didn't know.

Allen: Were there any other characters amongst the student body who were memorable to you?

Carl: Of course, I remember Prof. Zampierre.

Allen: I've heard an awful lot of about him.

Carl: He was a great guy. I won't be telling tales out of

school but when he held a test, he always bought the New York Times and sat reading the New York Times and everybody could take the test, so no problem there. Oh and also, let's see it was in '38 or '39 when we got the first lamp of learning from Greece. That was quite a fact. I know I worked on that thing somewhere. Of course we will carry that on the logo and I always remember the day that the Board of Trustees bought Marina. Jim Halsey, I was in the social room at the time, and he says, "Carl, are you busy?" and I said, "No" and he says, "Well, I haven't got a car, want to take a ride?" and I said, "sure" and we went down to Seaside park and we went through Marina and he said, "this is going to be the future University of Bridgeport." I always remember that

Allen: Did he tell you how much we paid for it?

Carl: I forget what it was now, a very little amount.

Allen: Well, it was a ten thousand dollars. We put a thousand dollars down and it eventually got paid off.

Carl: I know because we were dickering back and forth, back and forth. That was great. I always remember that. I always remember when Pres. Halsey came to the school. We had no office for him and he had to sit in Mrs. Redigan's who was the treasurer and custodian of the bookstore. His office was so small that when he went in there, he could just about sit down with his knees up against the desk.

Allen: What was he like at that time?

Carl: He was a great fellow, Julia was great, too. We put on the first dramatic experience with them. R.U.R, put it on in Bassick High School

Allen: R.U.R, That's the letter R.U.R.

Carl: Yes

Allen: Mrs. Halsey directed that, didn't she?

Carl: She did. I don't know what part I played, but it was a lot of fun.

Allen: Tell us about Cortright. What was he like?

Carl: He was quiet fellow. At the time but very interesting. Very fair. If you had any problems, his door was always open to talk to you about it.

Allen: Other faculty members?

Carl: Dean Scurr, she was, we always talked about Dean Scurr, the stairs were so narrow, going up stairs , that we passed her on the stairway she was always on the side.

Allen: Doc Ropp

Carl: Oh yes, Doc Ropp . I still get a letter from him at Christmas time. And then we had Dr. Ballou . Great, great mathematician. I was always amazed how he could add large sums of numbers He would wait to see how long it would take us to add them up and we would go up and put the same numbers on the board and he would turn around and put his hand over it till we finished. It's a way of doing it.

Allen: Did you know Milt Greenhalgh?

Carl: Oh yes, I know Milt.

Allen: Tell us about Milt.

Carl: Well, I didn't have too much to do with him at the time. Milt, I think, was working in the labs. He has done an awful lot for the school, I know that. A great fellow.

Allen: I had lunch with him yesterday down at school and I said I was going to see you. Tell me something that I don't know that Carl started and he said, I won't tell you exactly what he said but he said the ice cream cups.

Carl: Well, I used to of course used to take them to the plant and show them through the plant once in a while and always gave free ice cream. I was very lucky out there as a student. I enjoyed all the kids .

Allen: Now since you graduated and got your Bachelors what has been your contact with the school?

Carl: I was Alumni Trustee for four years.I believe

Allen: When was that?

Carl: I was president of the Alumni Association. Under my time why we were we built Loyola Hall. This was under Dr. Littlefield. We worked on the layout of that . We didn't have too much money and we wanted this, that and the other thing,He said he didn't know how long this thing will last. The it burned and we had to tear it down and build a new one. That was an experience, the dedication of that.

Allen: Now when you were alumni trustee , do you recall the dates on that?

Carl: I don't remember. (Macchine turned off while he went for a picture.)

Allen: O.K. July 10, '53. That's presumably when you came on the board.

Carl: That was the time that you used to be on for two years and then they changed it. I got a third year and I think there was something funny at the time I can't quiet remember.

Allen: O.K., well I'll be checking that part out . I haven't gone in that area very much. What was the board like?

Carl: Very interesting time. I couldn't make it at a lot of the times but some I could make and they had a problem of growing pains at the time. That was the biggest problem. Raising money to acquire buildings at the time , keep things going, there were some great people on the board at that time. Very dedicated.

Allen: This is good. I want to , Mrs. Richard Oppel came on May 23, 1927. She was secretary to the board in the very, very beginning. Did you know her well?

Carl: I didn't know her too well. She was a well known person in town , the city.

Allen: Why was she well known in town.

Carl: I really can't tell you.

Allen: Elliott Peck, Sept. 20, 1927

Carl: He was an old timer. I don't know what industry.

Allen: Ike Schine, Sept. 20

Carl: I knew Ike Schine because my father was a friend of his. He was a great man in the city and of course had the lumber business.

Allen: H. Almon Chaffee, May 29, '28

Carl: He was an old timer

Allen: He was a banker, wasn't he?

Carl: Yes

Allen: What bank?

Carl: I believe he was

Allen: David S. Day, July 16, 1920

Carl: A lawyer

Allen: A lawyer . J. William Hope, Nov. 26, '39

Carl: Accounting firm.

Allen: Mrs. Alvin Bruell, April 2, 1940

Carl: Of course, she was in the Barnum family.

Allen: The Barnum family. Al Bodine, Oct. 16, 1940

Carl: The Bodine Corp. A great person. Great fisherman. Great outdoorsman.

Allen: Great booming voice.

Carl: Oh yes, he come in, whenever he talked he commanded everybody's attention.

Allen: Harry Goldstein, Jan. 25, 1944.

Carl: Harry, he did work for the school that you wouldn't believe. It always amazed me that these people did all this work on their own. They spent a lot of time.

Allen: I know. I'm going through board minutes , a tremendous amount of time that the board.

~~Carl: Today you couldn't afford people that could do this.~~

Allen: Carl Hedberg, Jan. 25, '44. He was a dentist. Ron Maloney, Jan. 25th '44.

Carl: He was with the gas company

Allen: Donald Sammis, Jan. 25, '44.

Carl: President of the Underwood Corporation.

Allen: Fred Carstensen, Mar. 15, 1946.

Carl: Banker and builder.

Allen: Right, banker and builder. Dudley Stewart Clark, Mar. 15, '46. John P. Cullinan, Mar. 15, '46.

Carl: Lawyer.

Allen: And a judge, wasn't he? George C. Waldo, July 9, '48

Carl: The publisher of the Post.

Allen: Charles Bitzer, Nov. 12, '48

Carl: Banker , City Trust

Allen: Daniel F. Wheeler, Nov. 12, '48

Carl: He was a lawyer.

Allen: Harry B. Curtis, Mar. 10, 1940

Carl: Manufacturing

Allen: Do you know which one?

Carl: No, but I can find out

Allen: Frederick B. Silliman, Nov. 10 1930

Carl: Hydraulic Co.

Allen: Hydraulic company, right. Herman Steinkraus, Nov. 10, 1940

Carl: Bridgeport Brass.

Allen: Dr. Charles H. Sprague, Nov. 14, '52

Carl: Dentist

Allen: Dentist . Carl Huber, we've got. Rudy Bannow, Nov. 20, '53

Carl: Textron, Bridgeport Machines.

Allen: William Carlson, Nov. 20, '53

Carl: Metropolitan Body

Allen: Metropolitan Body. Fred Lacey, Nov. 20, 53.

Carl: Lacey Manufacturing .

Allen: Julia Quinn. Nov. 20, 53 .

Carl: She was in education. (Ruth puts in here- Julia Quinn was my next door neighbor growing up. She was a well known educator in Central High School who became, I think, either the principal or, at that time, the Dean of Students. A very brilliant woman)

Allen: Mrs. Lucien T. Warner, Nov. 20, '53

Carl: I think she was (indistinct)

Allen: This is very useful because I've got on tape a lot of names of people and very little about them. How did the board operate in the days that you were on? What were board meetings like?

Carl: Well, they were like most important meetings, they had certain problems that they had to assess, determine what they wanted to do-how to run the school. Some problems had to do with buildings, grounds, some had to do with education and some had to do with the faculty (indistinct) and expansion of the school. At that time the school was expanding rapidly.

Allen: How much did they get involved with the day to day running?

Carl: Very much

Allen: In what way?

Carl: Well, if I could dig out some of

Allen: Well, I have the minutes available .

Carl: They got involved, deeply involved with the day to day running of the school. Of course Jim Halsey and Dr. Littlefield made a wonderful team. They knew, each one had their own niche to operate and they knew how to do it and they worked very well together. I think that is a lot of the growth, all of the school, the university,

Allen: In the early days, I know, the Board of Trustees were extremely active. Ike Schine, the treasurer, signed every check that went out for everything and later as business got bigger they only signed checks above a certain amount of money. Were they still doing that at this time, do you know?

Carl: That I couldn't tell you , I really wouldn't know.

Allen: What experience with Jr. College or the university pleased you the most?

Carl: Well, I think the education I got at the school, the type of education and the fact that everybody knew each other at the time , everybody helped each other out , that's about it. I had a wonderful experience.

Allen: If you had it to do all over again, you'd do it.

Carl: Oh yes, I would do it all over again. It's not like today, you the schools telling you where, how and why and someone has a bone of contention with someone, they strike. We had a lot of good, clean fun.

Allen: O.K., we thank you very much , Carl. You've been most helpful. You've helped me a lot more that you thought you were going to be able to.

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End of tape.